

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON REFUGEE AND MIGRATION

REF: GENEVA 807

1. INFORMATION PROVIDED IN EMBASSY'S PREVIOUS REPORTS ON THIS SUBJECT REMAINS BASICALLY CORRECT. GOL, WHILE PROVIDING LITTLE FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEE AND MIGRATION PROGRAM, DOES PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE UNDERSTANDING, GOOD WILL AND IMPLICIT APPROVAL TO PROCESSING 203(A)7 APPLICATIONS IN LEBANON.

2. CONSIDERING REFUGEES IN BORDER CONTEXT, LEBANON DEVOTES MUCH ATTENTION TO AND IS GREATLY PREOCCUPIED BY PALESTINIAN REFUGEE SITUATION, WHICH IS SERIOUS POLITICAL AS WELL AS HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM HERE. GOL'S CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA (IN FUNDS, GOODS AND SERVICES) FOR 1974 TOTALED US DOLS 69,750. ADDITIONALLY, PRESENCE OF OVER 300,000 PALESTINIANS ON LEBANESE SOIL RESULTS IN INCALCUTABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COSTS.

3. AS GENEVA AWARE, LEBANON CONTRIBUTES TO UNHCR BUDGET. UNCHR/BEIRUT INFORMS US THAT GOL IS PAST YEAR ALSO CONTRIBUTED 500,000 LEBANESE POUNDS FOR CYPRUS REFUGEE RELIEF OPERATIONS.

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Message Attributes

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